

Iowa's Victim Information and Notification Everyday System

Iowa's Victim Information and Notification Everyday System (IowaVINE) was established by HF 619 (2005 Sex Offender Act). The automated victim notification system is maintained by the Crime Victim Assistance Division of the Department of Justice.

Background

IowaVINE allows crime victims to seek information and notification of change in custody status of an offender. Victims may register directly with the IowaVINE system. Victims may access the information either by a toll-free number (1-888-742-8463) or through the website (see More Information).

Victims may be notified by phone or email when an offender is moved between facilities, released to the community, or dies while incarcerated. Booking system computer databases transfer their data every 15 to 30 minutes (19 times daily for the Iowa Department of Corrections) to secure servers in Louisville, Kentucky. If there is a change in data for an offender from the previous data scan, the victim receives immediate notification of the change.

The Department of Justice implemented the system in December 2006. The computer-based system was deployed across Iowa, starting with county jails and the Department of Corrections (DOC).

Current Situation

As of June 2010, there were 92 county jails in Iowa connected to the IowaVINE system. All counties plan to join IowaVINE. Connectivity was established with the DOC in January 2008.

There has been a steady increase in usage by victims since the inception of the system in December 2006. As of May 2010, there were 54,236 people registered for notification. There have been 357,446 computer searches on IowaVINE and 9,826 phone calls to IowaVINE for information. There have been 46,778 email notifications delivered and 13,006 phone notifications delivered to registered victims.

Budget

The Crime Victim Assistance Division was awarded \$1.25 million in federal funds in FY 2007 to implement the system. The funds were expended across three fiscal years. The vendor, Appriss, Inc., provided all of the hardware, software, and training necessary to implement IowaVINE. Ongoing operating costs of approximately \$540,000 annually will be expended from the Victim Compensation Fund.

Future Plans

The Department of Justice was awarded a federal grant of \$333,000 for FY 2010 for enhancements, such as adding the capability to view the website in Spanish. No administrative or operating costs are permitted to be expended against this grant award. The grant will also support future enhancements:

- Adding the ability to send notification by text message.
- Adding photographs of incarcerated offenders to the website.

In the future, IowaVINE has the potential of connecting to other agencies within the juvenile, civil, and criminal justice systems. It is likely these plans will increase financial pressure on the Victim Compensation Fund. IowaVINE may be blended with the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) currently being developed by the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Division of the Department of Human Rights. The CJIS transmits justice system information, such as that of the DOC and the Judicial Branch, to other justice agencies in a common format. Future plans call for selected pieces of that information to be transmitted to the State's Justice Data Warehouse for statistical analysis.

More Information

IowaVINE: www.vinelink.com/vinelink/

Iowa Department of Justice Website: www.state.ia.us/government/ag/

Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault Website: www.iowacasa.org

Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence Website: www.icadv.org

Iowa Organization for Victim Assistance Website: www.iowaiova.com

Iowa Sexual Abuse hotline = 1-800-284-7821

Iowa Domestic Violence hotline = 1-800-942-0333

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